

### **REMARKS**

In an Office Action dated September 2, 2010, claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 26 were rejected. Herein, claims 6 and 9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Additionally, claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 9-11 contain allowable subject matter, and that claims 20-22 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form. As such, it is believed the present amendment place the application into condition for allowance.

#### **I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aoki (US 6,853,750). As noted above, claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted rejection of claims 3-5, 7, 8, and 26 is moot.

#### **II. Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 6 and 9-11 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 3. By this Amendment, Applicants note that claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form. In this regard, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 3 and intervening claim 4, and claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 3. Additionally, it is noted that claims 10 and 11 depend from amended claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 6 and 9-11 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-22 were indicated as being allowed.

### III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 9-11, and 20-22 are clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaoru YOKOTA et al.

/Stephen W. Kopchik/

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